

bottles, let it be done under the supervision of yourself or a competent assistant. Your junior will not hesitate to pour a clear tincture into the cloudy dregs of an old one, nor will he notice that deliquescence has started in the potass. carb. bottle. These are trifles, too, but they count also. And so one might go on mentioning things that everybody knows of, but yet few give attention to. I might mention the careful use of labels; the non-extravagant use of sealing wax; the mucilage pot; but I forbear, and hope that I have at least set someone thinking, and then stimulated him to action by these few thoughts on drug store trifles.

Suppositories, Pessaries and Gynecological Crayons.

For pessaries Delaye advises the use of a simple solution of gelatin in glycerin without previously softening the former in water, since he finds that, on keeping, articles made in the usual manner with water-softened gelatin lose their shape and consistence by gradual evaporation. He recommends the use of five bases, containing respectively 10, 8, 7, 6, and 5 parts by weight of sheet gelatin in 90, 92, 93, 94, and 95 parts of glycerin. The gelatin is simply dissolved in the glycerin by heating on the water-bath. The melted basis is mixed intimately with the medicament; when six pessaries are ordered, the requisite quantities for seven are weighed out, and the pessaries are left in the mould for at least twelve hours. When removed they are slightly oiled with olive oil or paraffin. For general use the mass containing 7 per cent. of gelatin is preferable for bodies which are soluble in glycerin and first dissolved in a portion of the solvent which is used to complete the weight. The basis containing 8 per cent. of gelatin is used for vegetable extracts and liquids, such as ichthyol, creolin, etc. The 10 per cent. basis is reserved for hygroscopic substances, such as potassium iodide, chloral, etc. In certain cases the irritant action of glycerin on the rectum contra-indicates its use for suppositories. When this is so, a mass containing 25 to 30 parts of gelatin and 70 to 75 parts of water may be employed. Where no objection to the use of glycerin occurs, the suppository basis may be composed of similar proportions of gelatin and that solvent to those stated above, the basis, containing 30 per cent. of gelatin, being reserved for liquid or soft medicaments. These suppositories

melt between 32° and 34° C. Where cacao butter is employed the author recommends the addition of 12½ per cent. of white wax, since theobroma oil alone melts too rapidly in the bowl. Gynecological crayons are best prepared with the following basis:—Sheet gelatin, 2; distilled water 2; simple syrup (containing sugar, 5; water, 1), 1 part. The medication is first dissolved or suspended in the water. The mass thus obtained cannot be poured out, and must be shaped while warm by introducing between the open halves of the mould and closing with pressure. When cold, the superfluous mass is trimmed off with a scissors and dried by exposure to the air for two or three days in a dry place, and finally coated with a solution of gelatin, 20; in glycerin, 85.—*Journal de Pharm. d'Anvers (Ph. Jt.)*.

Amylolytic Ferments.

In an article on this important subject Wyatt Wingrave, M.R.C.S. England (Assistant Surgeon to the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital), in the *London Lancet*, May 7th, 1898, we are informed of a personal necessity that arose in the writer's experience for a reliable starch digestant. A crucial comparative examination was therefore made of many malt extracts and of taka-dias-tase, the tests being conducted both chemically and clinically.

He summarizes briefly: (1) That taka-dias-tase is the most powerful of the starch or diastatic ferments and the most reliable since it is more rapid in its action—i.e., "it will convert a larger amount (of starch) in a given time than will any other amylolytic ferment." (2) That taka-dias-tase seems to be less retarded in its digestive action by the presence of the organic acids (butyric, lactic, acetic), and also by tea, coffee and alcohol, than are saliva and the malt extracts. This is an important point in pyrosis. (3) That all mineral acids, hydrochloric, etc., quickly stop and permanently destroy all diastatic action if allowed sufficient time and if present in sufficient quantities. (4) That taka-dias-tase and malt-dias-tase have, like ptyalin, no action upon cellulose (uncooked starch). All starch food should, therefore, be cooked to permit of the starch ferment assisting nature in this function.

Wrightine.—Alkaloid isolated from the bark of wrightia antidysenterica; employed as an antidiarrheic and antidysenteric.

A Popular President.

Mr. Harry Watters has proven himself a capable and popular president of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. He possesses a happy combination of geniality of disposition, marked energy and executive ability, a keen understanding of men and how to so place them as to insure to the utmost the development of their talents, a thorough knowledge of Canadian pharmacy and of the wants of its votaries, and a grasp of College matters which ten years of trained experience is enabling him to make good use of in the interests of his confreres. He is at the same time surrounded by able and experienced advisers, and is blessed in ruling at a time when the efforts of his Council are happily blended in unison. We congratulate Mr. Watters upon being in at the death of the College debt, and upon so fitting a termination to his long and honorable career as a college legislator and administrator.

New Form of Sieve.

J. F. Strawinski has devised a sieve for pharmaceutical purposes which lessens the liability to contamination of powdered drugs. The body or frame of the sieve is made of brass, tinned on the inner surface, and at the base of the frame is a coarse threading, over which a collar containing the sieve-plate is screwed. On the exterior of the collar are five finger-holds, so that it may be adjusted quite firmly. The sieve-plates are made separately, and in adjusting the apparatus all that is necessary is to place one of the plates, of the desired mesh, in the collar, before attaching the latter to the frame. The model constructed by the author had five sieve-plates, each of the proper mesh for producing the degrees of fineness specified in the U. S. Pharmacopœia. Several points of superiority are claimed by the author for his invention, including durability, less liability to contamination, and compactness.—*Am. Journ. Pharm.*

Oleotone.—This is a new substitute for butter, which is made of peptonized fat.

Constitution of Pectin.—Tollens regards pectins as carbohydrates combined chemically with acids, and analogous to gums.

Lepin.—An antiseptic mixture, consisting of bichlorid of mercury, carbolic, salicylic and benzoic acids, chlorid of calcium, bromin, quinine hydrobromid, chloroform and distilled water.